

Hyperlinks to Other Documents in CM/ECF System

This district's electronic filing rules permit filers to create hyperlinks to case or statutory citations. AP 2.3(i). This new version of CM/ECF, however, permits CM/ECF users to file documents that include hyperlinks to a previously filed document in the same case or another case, as well as to a document that is being filed in the same submission, such as exhibits to motions or memos of law. A document can be linked to another document in any federal court's database if the court is running the appropriate version of CM/ECF that includes the hyperlink function: District (Release 3.1); Bankruptcy (Release 3.2) and/or Appellate (available as of July 2006). This hyperlink functionality has been Tested in Corel WordPerfect 11 or higher and Microsoft Word 2002 or higher. Hyperlinks added to documents created in other word processing programs may not function properly once the document is converted to PDF format.

Create Hyperlinks to Previously Filed CM/ECF Documents

To create a hyperlink to a previously filed CM/ECF document in your case or some other case, follow the steps below:

- STEP 1** Access the appropriate CM/ECF system and run the Docket Report for the case that contains the document you want to link to.
- STEP 2** Locate the document on the docket sheet.
- STEP 3** Copy the URL of the document to the clipboard. To do this, hover over the document link and click the right mouse button. Select **Copy Shortcut** (*Internet Explorer/Netscape*) (Figure 1) OR **Copy Link Location** (*Firefox*) (Figure 2). *Note: The document link is represented by a number with an underscore.)*

NOTE: If you want to link to an attachment to a primary document filed in CM/ECF, you must select the hyperlink to the attachment from the Document Selection Menu. (See Figure 3). For example, if you are linking to a memorandum of law filed with a motion, you must first select the motion from the docket sheet. When the Document Selection Menu appears, copy the URL of the attachment by following the procedure outlined above.

Note: Users should NOT copy hyperlinks from Notices of Electronic Filing. NEFs contain special information associated with the “free look” to qualified recipients and should not be used for Cross-Document Hyperlinks.

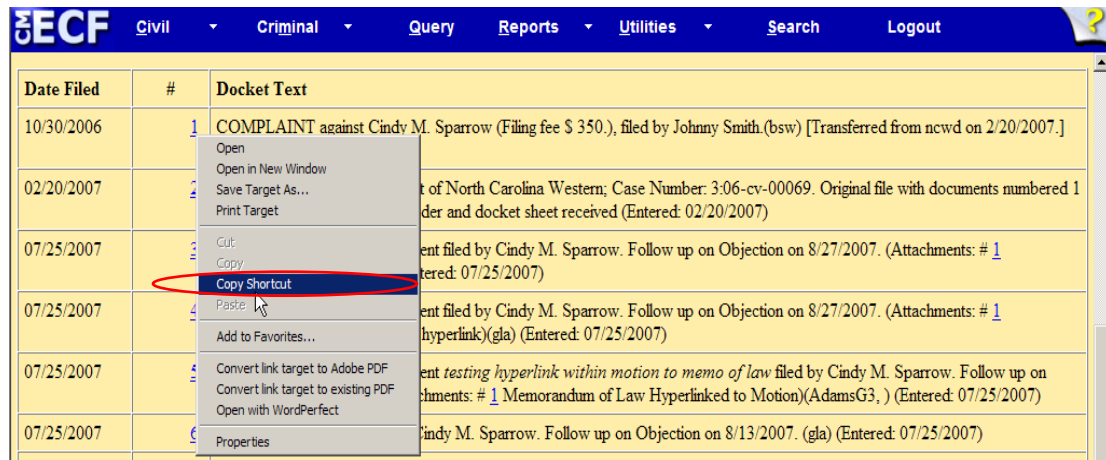


Figure 1: Internet Explorer

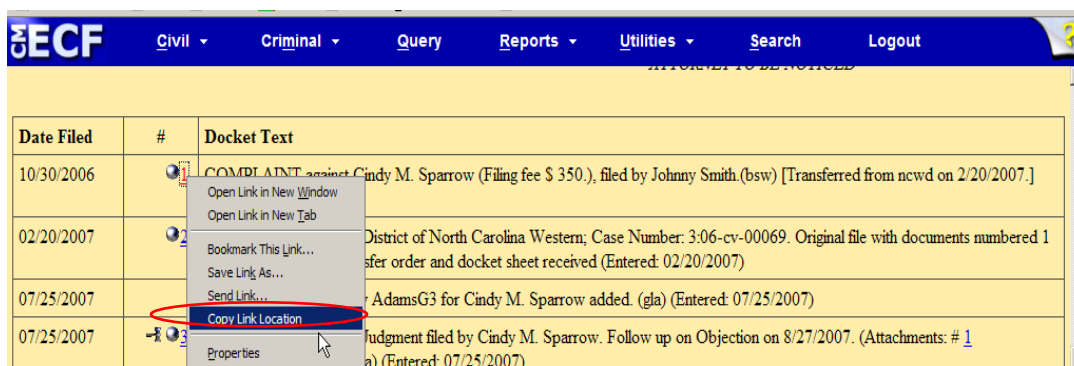


Figure 2: Firefox

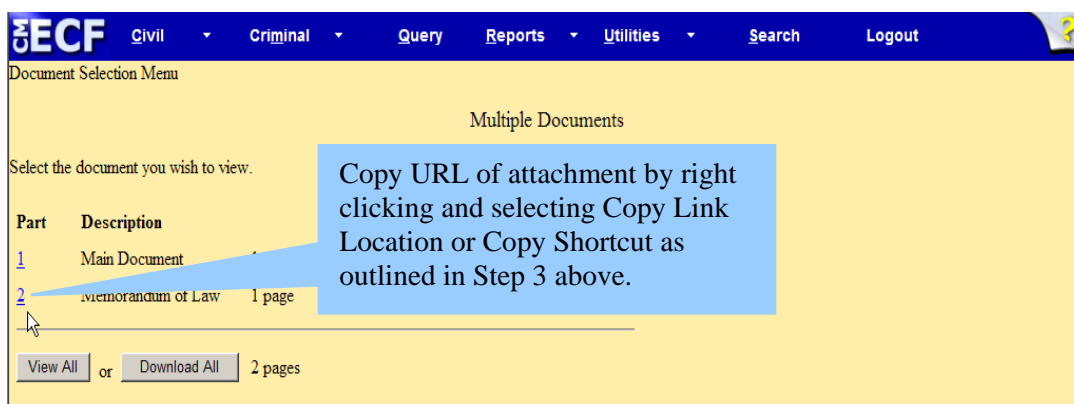


Figure 3: Copy URL of Attachment to Document

Note: From this point, the proper method for inserting the hyperlinks in your document depends on whether you are using WordPerfect or Word to create your document. Please refer to the appropriate section below depending on whether you use WordPerfect or Word.

WordPerfect

STEP 4 Open the document to which you want to add a hyperlink.

- Select and highlight the appropriate text to be hyperlinked, such as “declaratory relief” shown in Figure 5.
- Click **Tools** on the menu toolbar.
- Select **Hyperlink** from the drop-down list.

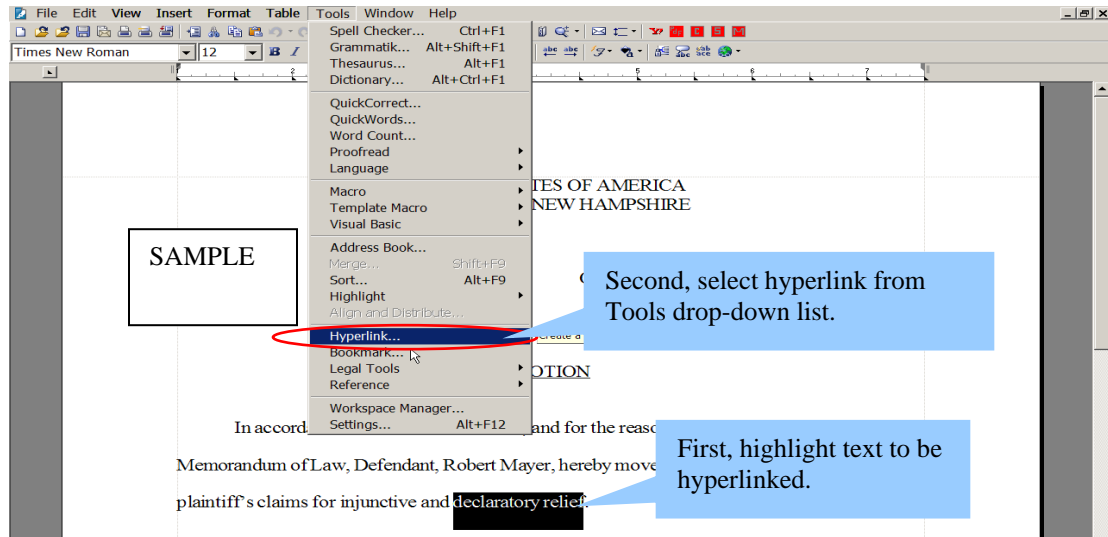


Figure 5: Highlight Text to Create the Hyperlink

STEP 5 Next, the Hyperlink Properties dialog box appears. (See Figure 6).

- **Paste** the URL of the document copied in Step 3 into the **Document/Macro** field of the Hyperlink Properties window by clicking the right mouse button and selecting **Paste** or by using the **Ctrl + V** command.
- Click the **OK** button.

Note: Users may append to the URL a specific page number within the document by adding **?page=<pagenumber>** at the end of the URL.

For example: https://ecf.nhd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_case_doc?case_id=30628&doc_num=44&pdf_header=0?page=23

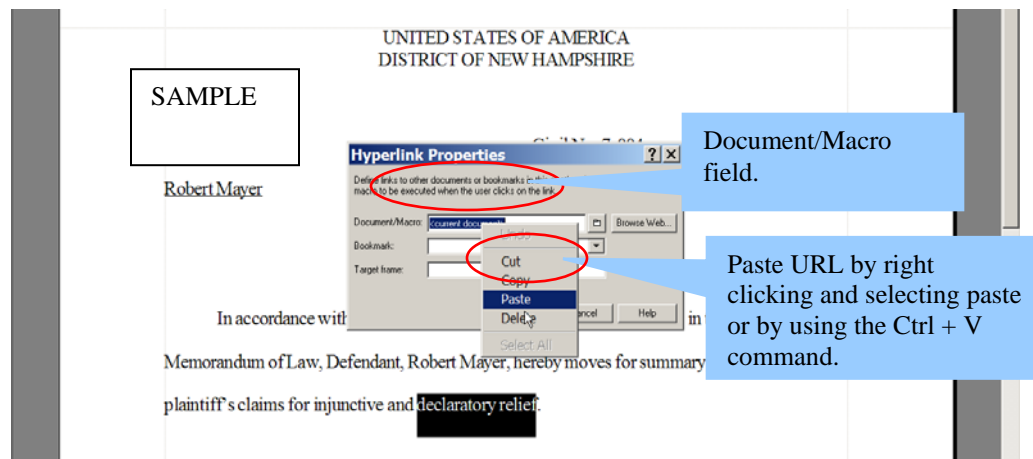


Figure 6: Paste URL

STEP 6 The next step is to convert the WordPerfect document to PDF format using the **Publish to...** or **Publish to PDF** function in WordPerfect. (See Figure 7). Converting to PDF using other methods will not retain the hyperlink.

- Click **File** on the menu toolbar.
- Select **Publish to...** then **PDF** or **Publish to PDF** (this selection depends on the version of WordPerfect you are using).

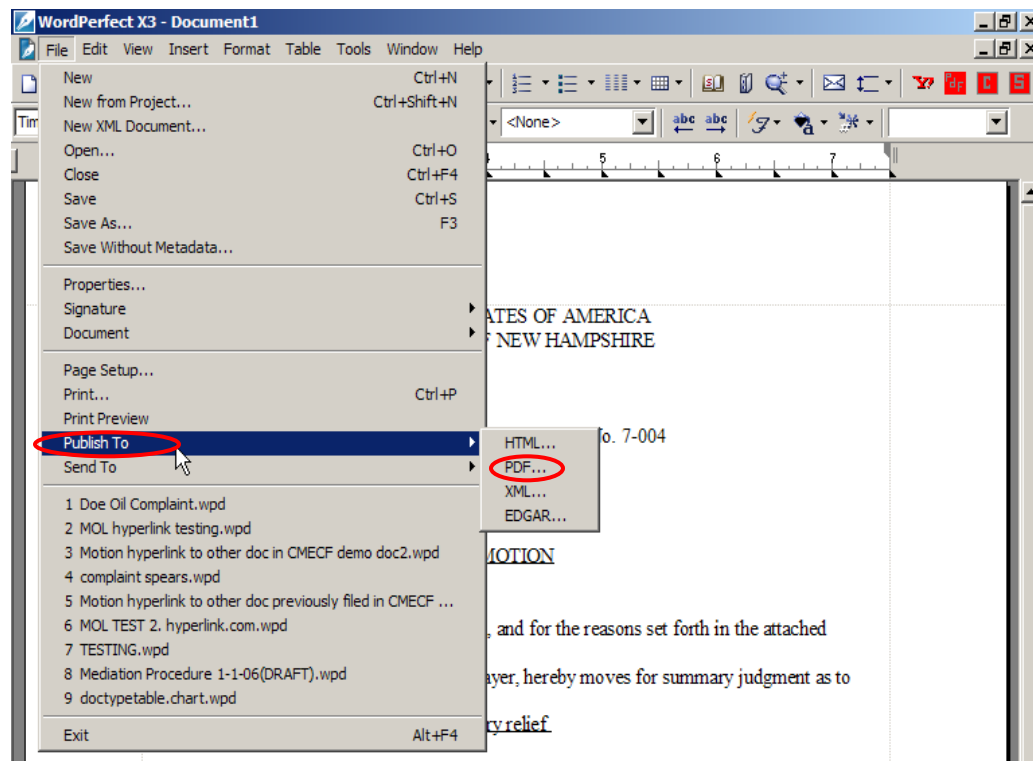


Figure 7: Publish to PDF

STEP 7 Save the document.

Things to Remember:

- Do not convert a WordPerfect document to Adobe PDF Writer by selecting the print option for Cross – Document Hyperlinks functionality.
- Publish to PDF must be used if a document contains a hyperlink

STEP 8 Docket the appropriate CM/ECF event and attach the PDF document as usual.

Microsoft Word

STEP 4 Open the document to which you want to add a hyperlink.

- Select and highlight the appropriate text to be hyperlinked, such as “declaratory relief” shown in Figure 8.
- Click **Insert** on the menu toolbar.
- Select **Hyperlink** from the drop-down list.

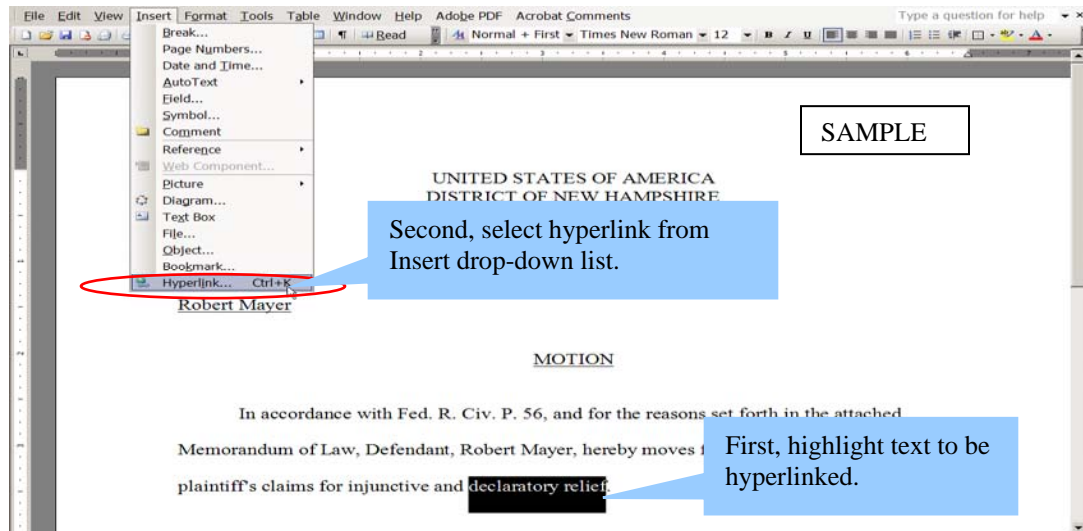


Figure 8: Highlight Text to Create Hyperlink

STEP 5 Next, the Insert Hyperlink dialog box appears. (See Figure 9).

- **Paste** the URL of the document copied in Step 3 into the **Insert Hyperlink** window by clicking the right mouse button and selecting **Paste** or by using the **Ctrl-V** command.
- Click the **OK** button.

Note: Users may append to the URL a specific page number within the document by adding **?page=<pagenumber>** at the end of the URL.

For example: https://ecf.nhd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_case_doc?case_id=30628&doc_num=44&pdf_header=0?page=23

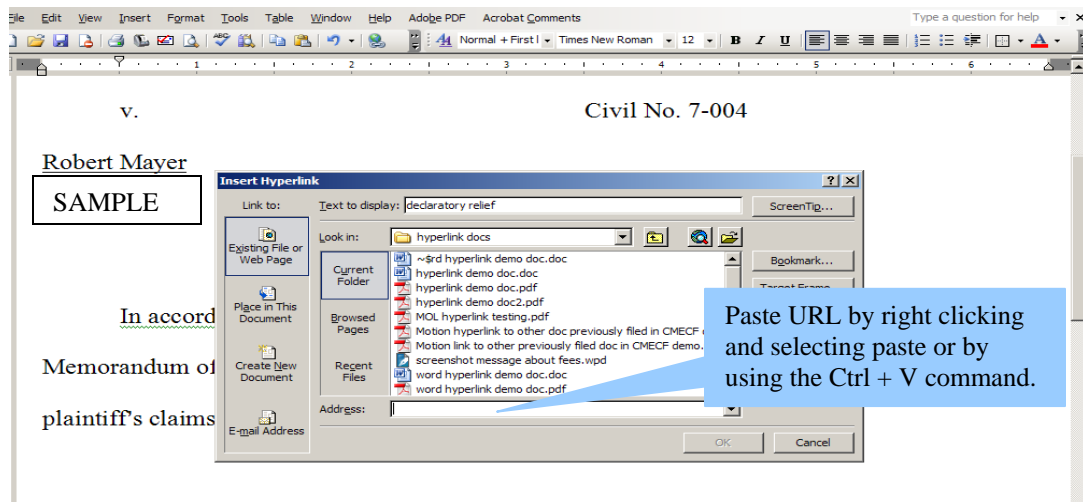


Figure 9: Paste URL

STEP 6 Save before converting to PDF.

STEP 7 Convert the document to PDF. To convert a Word document to be filed in the CM/ECF system to PDF that contains a hyperlink, the Adobe Acrobat application must be used. No other conversion software can be used.

- Click the Convert to Adobe PDF icon on your toolbar or Adobe PDF button depending on the version of Word you are using. (Figure 10).

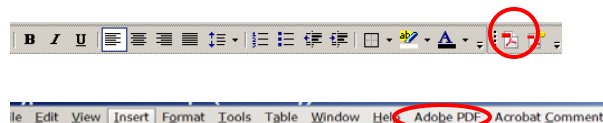


Figure 10

OR

- Close the Word document
- Open Adobe Acrobat. (See Figure 11).
- Click **File** on the menu toolbar.
- Select **Create PDF** then **From File**.
- Navigate to the appropriate directory/folder where the Word document is stored. Select the document and click the **Open** button as shown in Figure 12. A series of windows will open as the document is converted. (See Figure 13).

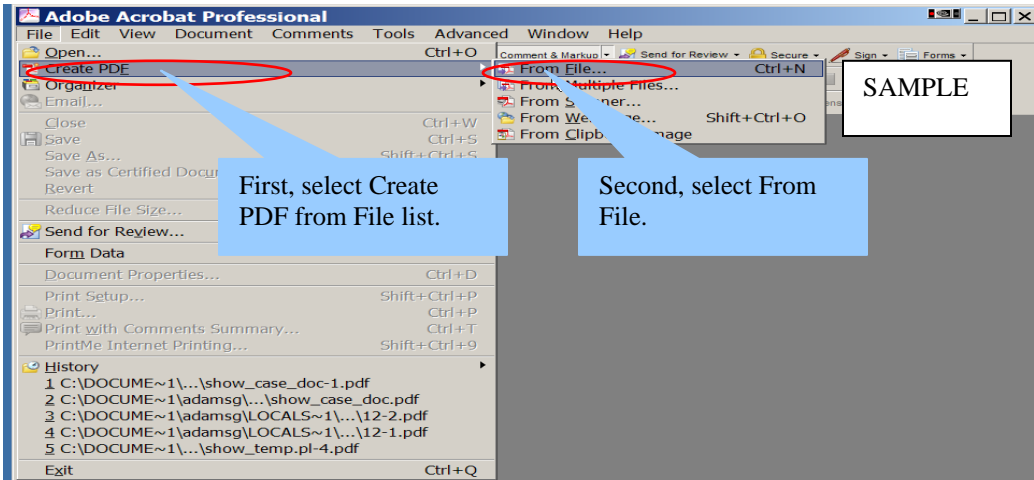


Figure 11: Create PDF

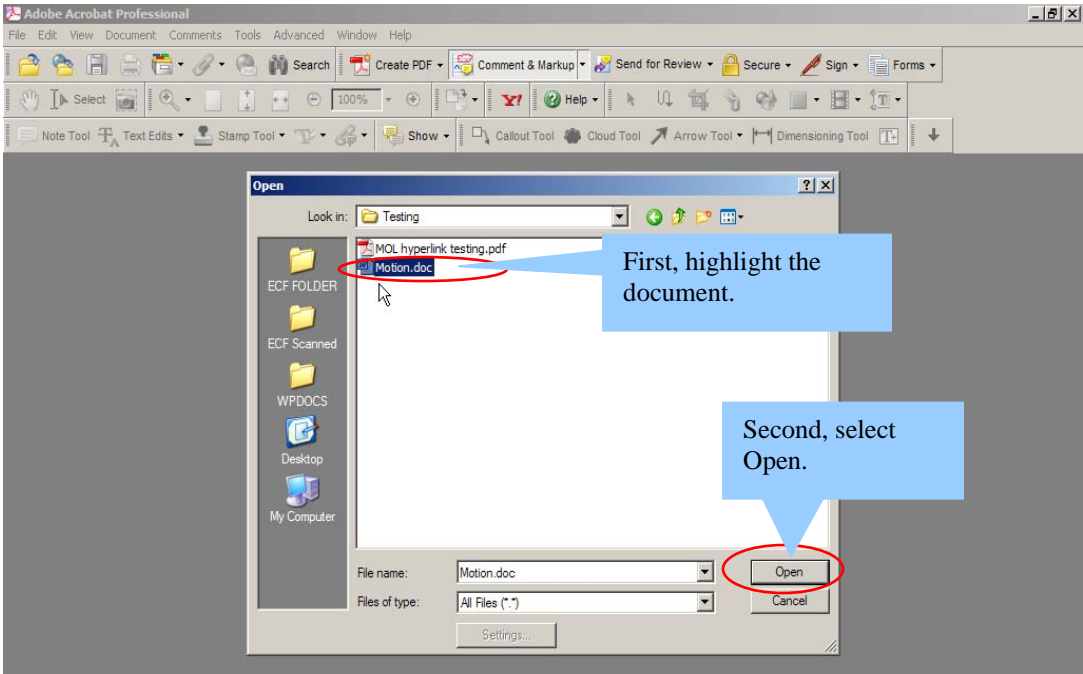


Figure 12: Converting to PDF

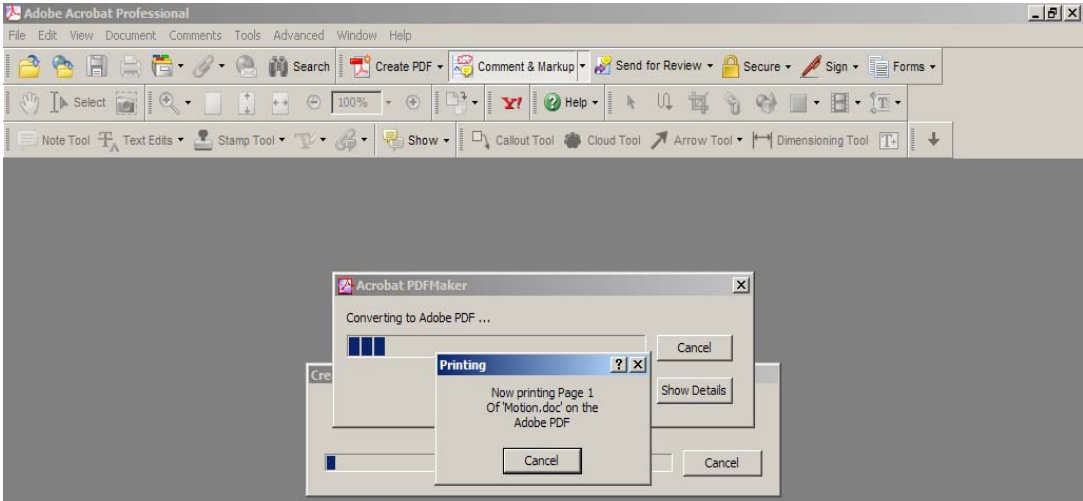


Figure 13: Converting

- STEP 8** When the conversion is completed, the document is displayed in the Adobe Acrobat window. Save and close the Adobe file.
- STEP 9** Docket the appropriate CM/ECF event and attach the PDF document as usual.

Create Hyperlinks Between Documents Filed in the Same Event

It is also possible to link two or more documents to be filed in the same event. To create a hyperlink to a document filed in the same event, such as an exhibit in support of a motion or memo of law, follow the steps below. Again, the proper method for inserting these hyperlinks depends on whether you use WordPerfect or Word to create your document.

NOTE: Hyperlinks in a primary document to a secondary document filed in the same submission do not vitiate the requirement that each exhibit or attachment to a motion or pleading (i.e. primary document) must also be filed as a separate attachment and individually numbered/lettered as set forth in AP 2.5(a).

WordPerfect

In order to create a hyperlink in the primary WordPerfect document to a secondary document filed in the same event, the secondary document must be in PDF format.

- STEP 1** Convert the secondary document to PDF format using the **Publish to...** or **Publish to PDF** function in WordPerfect. Converting to PDF using other methods will not retain the hyperlink. (See Figure 7 above). With the secondary document open in WordPerfect, do the following:
- Click **File** on the menu toolbar.
 - Select **Publish to...** then **PDF** or **Publish to PDF** (this selection depends on the version of WordPerfect you are using).
- STEP 2** Open the primary WordPerfect document that will contain the hyperlink to the secondary document.
- STEP 3** Select and highlight the appropriate text in the primary document that will be displayed as the hyperlink to the secondary document as shown in Figure 5 above.
- **Select the text** to be displayed as a hyperlink.
 - Click **Tools** on the menu toolbar.
 - Select **Hyperlink** from the drop-down list.
- STEP 4** Displayed next is the Hyperlink Properties dialog box. Click the Folder icon located to the right of the Document/Macro field as shown in Figure 14.



Figure 14: Creating Hyperlink to Secondary Document

STEP 5 Navigate to the directory/folder in which the secondary document you wish to link is located. (Note: The document selected as the link must be in PDF format.) (See Figure 15).

- **Highlight** the **PDF document** (document must be PDF format).
- Click the **Select** button.
- Click **OK** on the **Hyperlink Properties** dialog box and the hyperlinked text will be underlined.

Note: Users may append to the URL a specific page number within the document by adding **?page=<pagenumber>** at the end of the URL.

For example: https://ecf.nhd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_case_doc?case_id=30628&doc_num=44&pdf_header=0?page=23

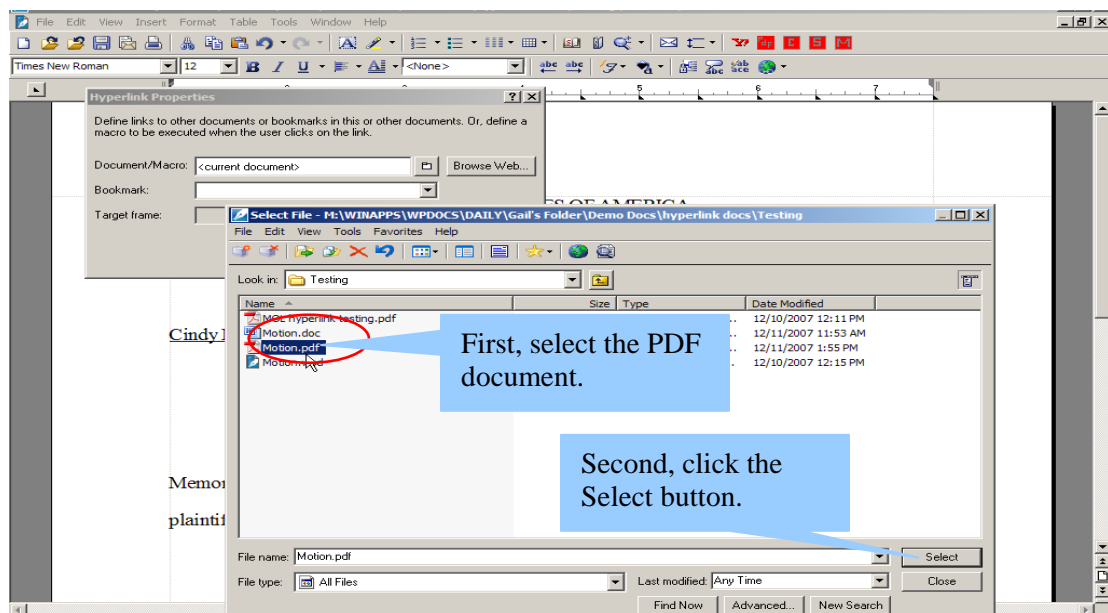


Figure 15: Linking document

- STEP 6** After you have created all of your document hyperlinks, save the primary WordPerfect document.
- STEP 7** Convert the primary document to PDF format using the **Publish to...** or **Publish to PDF** function in WordPerfect. Converting to PDF using other methods will not retain the hyperlink. (See Figure 7 above).
- Click **File** on the menu toolbar..
 - Select **Publish to...** then **PDF** or **Publish to PDF** (this selection depends on the version of WordPerfect you are using).
- STEP 8** Docket the appropriate CM/ECF event and attach the PDF document and attachments as usual.

Microsoft Word

In order to create a hyperlink in the primary Word document to a secondary document filed in the same submission, the secondary must be in PDF format.

STEP 1 Convert the secondary document to PDF. To convert a Word document to be filed in the CM/ECF system to PDF that contains a hyperlink, the Adobe Acrobat application must be used. No other conversion software can be used.

- Click the Convert to Adobe PDF icon on your toolbar or Adobe PDF button depending on the version of Word you are using. (Figure 10).

OR

- Close the Word document.
- Open Adobe Acrobat. (See Figure 11).
- Click **File** on the menu toolbar.
- Select **Create PDF** then **From File**.

STEP 2 Open the primary document that will contain the hyperlink to the secondary (attached) document.

STEP 3 Select and highlight the text in the primary document will be displayed as the hyperlink as outlined for Microsoft Word documents as shown in Figure 8 above.

- Click **Insert** on the toolbar.
- Select **Hyperlink** from the dropdown selection list.

STEP 4 Displayed next is the Insert Hyperlink Box as shown in Figure 15.

STEP 5 Navigate to the directory/folder in which the secondary document is located. (Note: The document selected as the link must be in PDF format.) (See Figure 16).

- **Highlight** the **PDF document** (document must be in PDF format).
- Click **OK** on the **Insert Hyperlink** box and the highlighted text will be underlined.

Note: Users may append to the URL a specific page number within the document by adding **?page=<pagenumber>** at the end of the URL.

For example: https://ecf.nhd.uscourts.gov/cgi-bin/show_case_doc?case_id=30628&doc_num=44&pdf_header=0?page=23

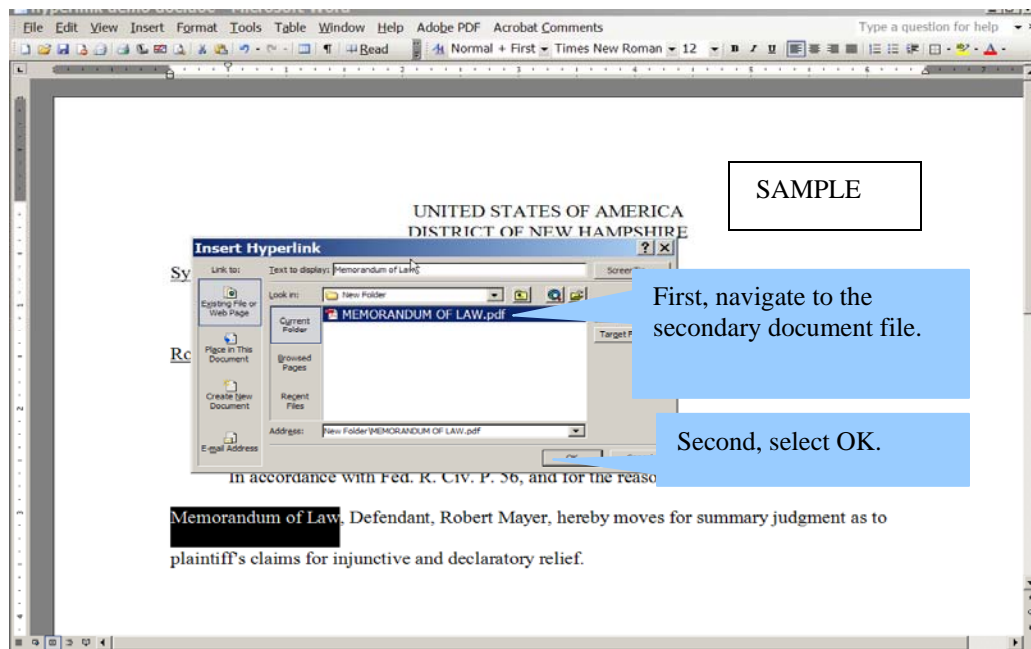


Figure 16: Creating Hyperlink to Secondary Document

STEP 6 Save and the primary Word document.

STEP 7 Convert the document to PDF. To convert a Word document to be filed in the CM/ECF system to PDF that contains a hyperlink, the Adobe Acrobat application must be used. No other conversion software can be used.

- Click the Convert to Adobe PDF icon on your toolbar or Adobe PDF button depending on the version of Word you are using. (Figure 10).

OR

- Close the Word document.
- Open Adobe Acrobat. (See Figure 11).
- Click **File** on the menu toolbar.
- Select **Create PDF** then **From File**.
- Navigate to the appropriate directory/folder where the Word document is stored. Select the document and click the **Open** button as shown in Figure 12. A series of windows will open as the document is converted. (See Figure 13).

STEP 8 When the conversion is completed, the document is displayed in the Adobe Acrobat window. Save and close the Adobe file.

STEP 9 Docket the appropriate CM/ECF event and attach the PDF document and attachments as usual.

Accessing Documents via Hyperlinks

Accessing documents via a hyperlink from within a document filed in CM/ECF works the same as accessing a document hyperlink from the docket sheet or query.

If you click on a hyperlink to a CM/ECF document, but have not logged in to PACER, a PACER log in screen appears before the document can be displayed. Once logged in as a PACER user, you will have access to documents on any CM/ECF server for the duration of the browser session or until you log out of PACER. A billing receipt and confirmation will be displayed to users logged in with a PACER account before the document can be displayed.

Any document you receive via a Notice of Electronic filing that contains your “free look” can be accessed via PACER without incurring a fee but access to any hyperlinked document viewed by clicking on the hyperlink within the “free look” document (whether a hyperlink to a document filed as an attachment to the “free look” document or a document filed on any CM/ECF server) will incur a fee. To avoid incurring PACER fee when viewing an attached document filed with your “free look,” the document must be viewed from the “Document Selection Menu.” (See Figure 17). Any documents viewed via a hyperlink within a document filed on any CM/ECF server will incur a PACER fee.

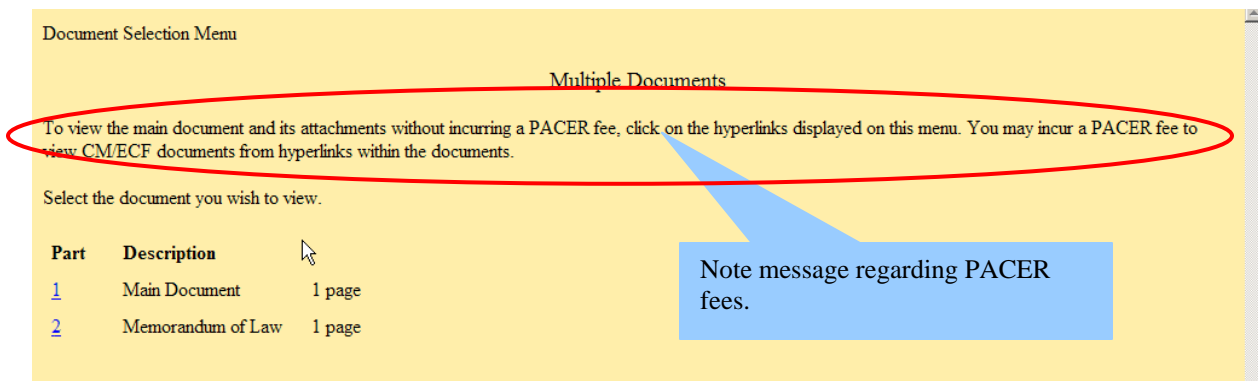


Figure 17: PACER fees